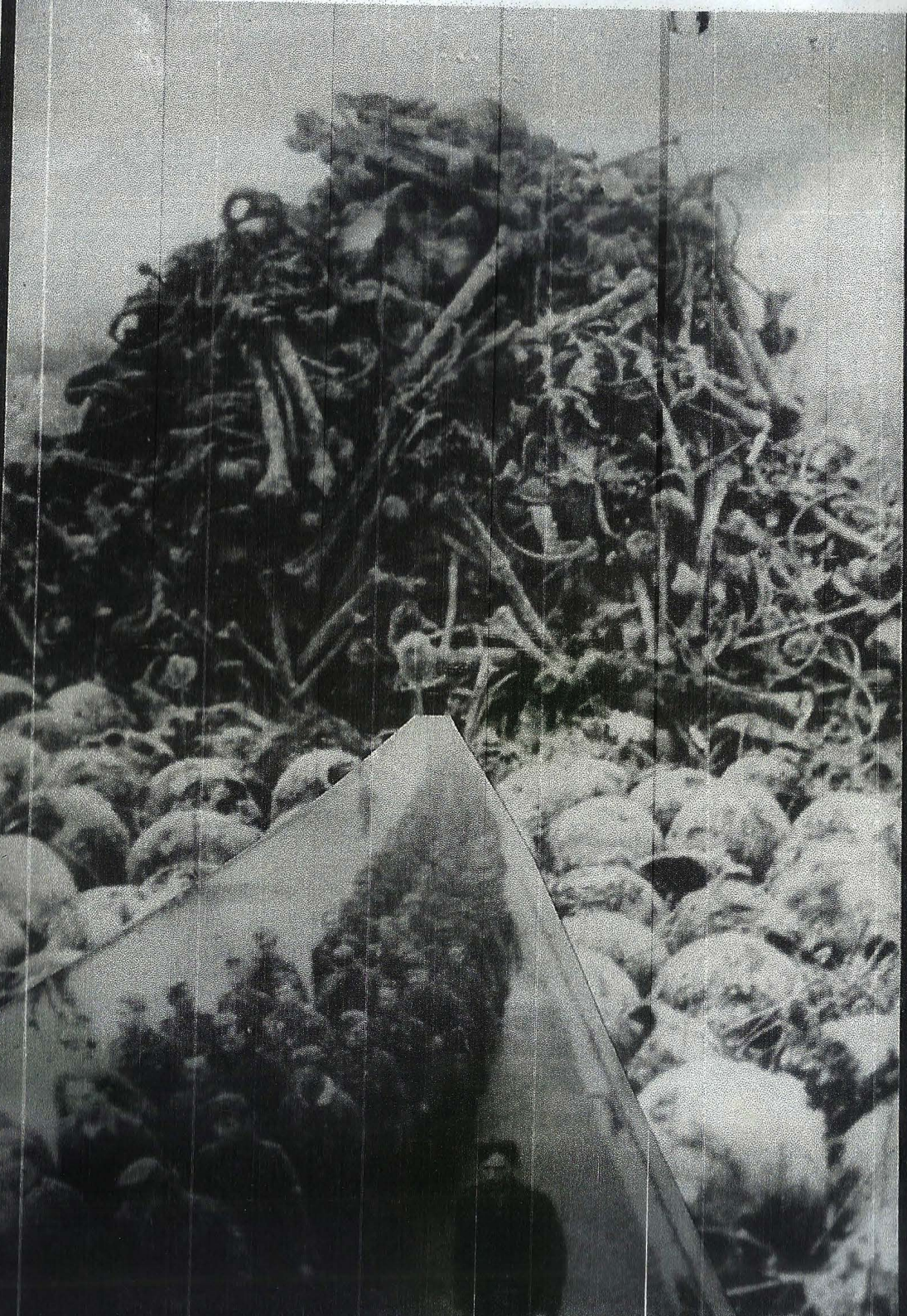




R E K A H

...AND YOU'RE STILL THINKING
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS
"GULAG"?



Bullying sucks.

The scars it left remain long after it happened, both for the victims and the perpetrators. In November 2015 Komisi Perlindungan Anak Indonesia (KPAI) notes that 40% of suicides were caused by bullying. Unfortunately, facts like this seem to be taken as trivial matters instead of an urgency.

For Rekah, music has always been about creating a space to speak up. Through the announcement he made on his YouTube channel, Faiz—who does vocals for Rekah—shares his story about the bullying he experienced and how it shaped his life. He's sure that he's not the only one, that many others have also experienced similar situations as the bully or the bullied. That being said, as a record label slash publishing house we want to take part in starting conversations about bullying. We talked to victims, bullies, and witnesses of this sickening phenomenon to understand how one can turn their back against each other in such a disturbing way.

This zine may not have the power to end bullying entirely, but that's okay. Besides, music and zines as mediums will never be enough to cover an entirety of a social phenomenon. In that case, we can only hope to open new spaces and spark dialogues about bullying and how it affects those who are involved—and hopefully put an end to the trivialization of the matter.

Your friends,

Hantu



Why did you decide to bring up the issue about bullying?

To be frank, simply because it has happened to me before. There's nothing like writing about a personal experience, right? But if we look past that, I might have been a bully too at some point in my life. It's a vicious cycle. I want this record to be a reminder for myself, a lesson if I could say so. If one day the thought about doing something that remotely resembles bullying ever crosses my mind, I'll think about this record and the damage that bullying has done to me. Nobody deserves to be bullied. At the end of the day, this is the outcome of the lingering trauma I have collected over the years.

What kind of bullying have you seen and perhaps personally experienced?

It started out with what one might think as the mildest form of bullying: the verbal ones. Sure, it's all fun and games until somebody gets hurt. The thing is, even when you're hurt, there's still no sign of stopping because they're "just kidding" and you're "too sensitive". Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never break me? Bullshit. Now that social media is a thing and we have access to practically everyone we can think of on our fingertips, bullying becomes even easier to come by. Go check out Twitter and see for yourself how easy it is to bully someone while hiding behind an avatar.

Personally, I have experienced all of the above and several physical abuse that I would rather not talk about here. Watch the video and you'll probably get an idea.

How has being bullied affected you?

This might not be a direct result of bullying, but I had a hard time figuring out who I really was. Heck, I probably still have. Whenever I came across my bullied, I tried to be someone else, anyone else but myself. Just to keep me safe, if anything. Turns out years and years of playing this sick hide and seek has taken a toll on myself. I never knew who I am. Am I really this scared, constantly paranoid boy? Am I just overthinking things? What if it's really who I am? These are the things that I'll probably never know for sure.

at some point i was so fed up. theres no certain thing that happened

How did you deal with the trauma caused by bullying?

I used to avoid people in general. Better safe than sorry, I guess? There was a time when I would rather do things by myself instead of being around people with a chance of being bullied. It was a rather cloudy period of my life. I took up writing, mainly to express my thoughts without having anyone to hear them.

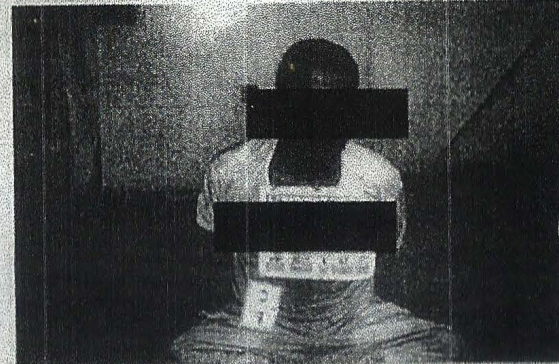
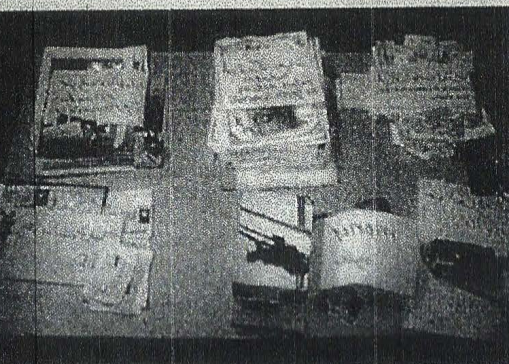
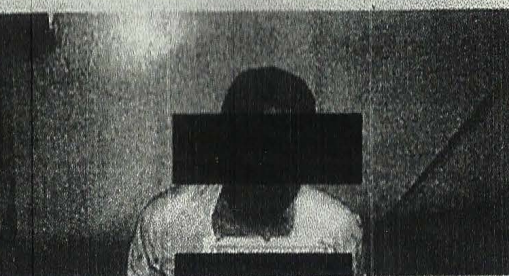
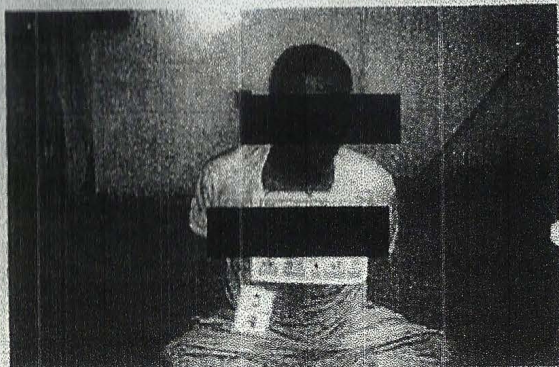
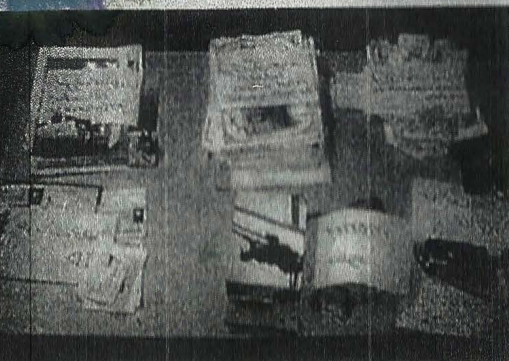
At some point I got really fed up and just started being indifferent to my bullies. There's no particular turn of events or a dramatic realization—it sort of just snapped. I realized that they thrived on my fear and worry, so I started ignoring their acts. It didn't end overnight, as expected, since they kept picking on me as usual, if not worse. It did take a long time for me to truly understand that at the end of the day, they're nothing more than attention seekers. Once you're aware of that, it's much easier to stand up for yourself and cut them off for good.

Music might work to raise awareness about certain things like bullying, but we all know that stopping at awareness does little to tackle the issue. What are things that we can actually do to help shed light and hopefully solve the problem? What do you personally do?

As I said before, bullying is a vicious cycle. I might have been a victim, but I'm sure I have been a perpetrator too, in some cases. What we need to do is break the circle and put an end to this epidemic. Having been on both sides of the story, I try to be more aware of my words and actions and the impact they have on others. I could mean well or simply didn't put much thought into it, but it could come across as entirely different to the other party. There's no harm in being more empathetic with others. There's no harm in reaching out to others, either. Seeking help doesn't equal being weak, it's a sign that you want to remain strong.

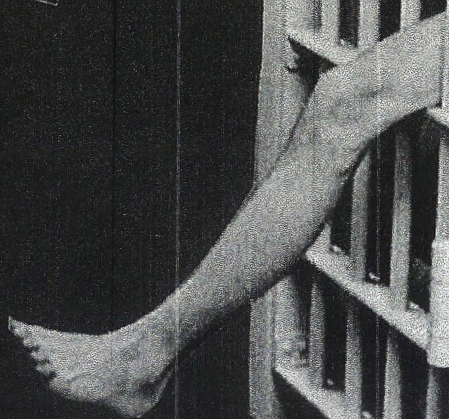
What would you say to your bullies if you see them now?

Thank you and I hope you enjoy the rest of your lives.



AND SO

THEY SAID



MISSING PERSON REPORT

NAME NANINI (32)

LAST SEEN 6/7/2008

ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER

AFFILIATION



GENERAL DESCRIPTION

FOR YEARS IVE BEEN STRUGGLING TO FIND MY OWN VOICE- IVE NEVER HAD WITTY THINGS TO SAY OR RAGE FROM BEING BULLIED. I STILL HAVE DIFFICULTIES IN ~~RE~~ REGULATING EMOTIONS AND DESCRIBING FEELINGS. I WAS A CONFUSED KID WHO TRIED TOO MUCH TO BE LOVED. TODAY I REALIZED HOW TERRIBLE THE WOUND IVE ~~BEEN~~ BEEN CARRYING FOR YEARS AND HOW DESTRUCTIVE I COULD BE TO COPE. BUT I DONT FEEL SORRY FOR HAVING A SOFT HEART. I DONT FEEL SORRY THAT I CHOSE TO BE KIND.

MISSING PERSON REPORT

NAME REE RENGGA

LAST SEEN 6/8/2008

ADDRESS

LOST

I THOUGHT BEING BULLIED WAS A LIFESTYLE

~~PHONE NUMBER~~ I WAS BULLIED BCS IM GAY AND

~~GENERAL DESCRIPTION~~ FEMININE. BENCONG. HOMOPHOBIC SLURS.

IT HURTS ME BUT WHAT CAN I DO?

XXXXXXXXX ~~GENERAL DESCRIPTION~~ XXXXXXXXX

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE THIS OPEN WITH EVERYONE ABOUT MY SEXUALITY. IM GRATEFUL FOR MY FRIENDS. I WASNT ALONE. NOW EVERYTIME I SEE A FEMININE BOY LIKE ME, I'LL BE RAISING THEM FOR THEIR CONFIDENCE. BECAUSE I KNOW THEY'VE ~~BEEN~~ BEEN THROUGH SHIT. IT'S NOT EASY TO BE OUT AND BE YOURSELF WITHOUT PEOPLE RUNNING ~~THEIR~~ THEIR MOUTHS. IT'S STILL HAPPENING TO ME BUT I DONT CARE AT ALL.



MISSING PERSON REPORT

NAME	A
LAST SEEN	
ADDRESS	NOT FOUND
PHONE NUMBER	XXXX
AFFILIATION	

no
photo
available

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

I lived with my abusive parents. being locked in the bathroom, punched in the face, held under knife point, everything bcs I did a minor "mistake" like not getting good grades in school. My dad also used to beat my mom until she was covered in blood. I was in grade school. It's been 5 years since my dad left the family to marry someone my age. we never spoke to each other again and I've never felt better.

MISSING PERSON REPORT

NAME	H. A. S (27)
LAST SEEN	
ADDRESS	
PHONE NUMBER	
AFFILIATION	



GENERAL DESCRIPTION

I WAS ADOPTED BY MY PARENTS AND THEY ARE CHINESE, WHILE I'M A BATAK JAVANESE. PEOPLE TALKED ABOUT HOW I LOOK NOTHING LIKE MY PARENTS. ALL MY LIFE I'VE BEEN STRUGGLING OVER COMMENTS ABOUT MY PHYSIQUE BUT I KNOW THAT I WAS ADOPTED BY PARENTS WHO LOVE ME SO MUCH. I'M OKAY NOW.







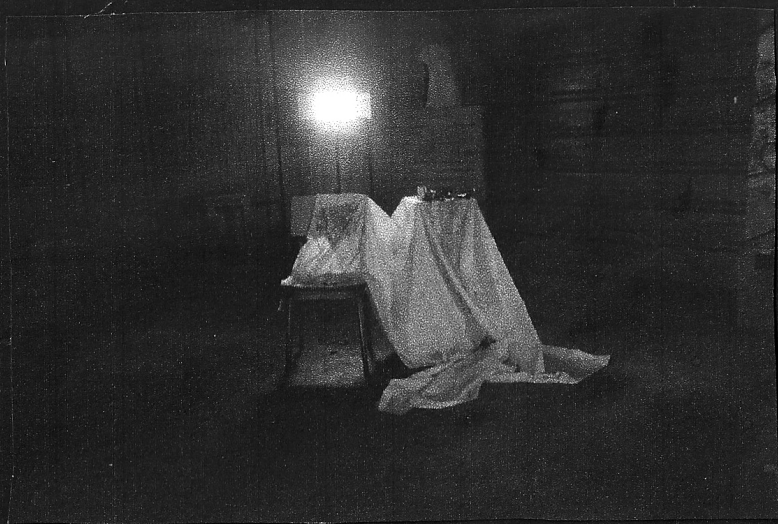
WE LIVE WITH THE BOND THAT WE SHARE
THEN YOU LOOK AT ME WITH A STARE
YOU WISH ME DEATH, MULTIPLE TIMES
WHEN I DO NOT COMMIT CRIMES!

A ROOM FULL OF ABUSE AND ~~TORTURE~~
THE TURNING POINT FOR MY FUTURE
YOUR STEPS MAKE ME UNWISER
THINK IT'S WHAT I REACT DEFENDING

AS FAR BACK AS I CAN REMEMBER
WE PROMISED TO KEEP EACH OTHERS SECRETS FOREVER
BUT IN THE MID TERM, YOU SPREAD A FALSE RUMOR
SPREADING FAST, MORE THAN CANCER
WHILE YOU HIDING IN DISGUISE
EVERYONE START TO LOOKING AT ME WITH DISGUST
AND WHEN I THOUGHT IT WOULD SOON EXPIRE
YOU JUST SET A NEW LIGHT ON FIRE

THE PLACE WHERE I USED TO LIVE
NOW HAS BECOME A LAND OF GRIEF
~~NOT~~ CONFUSED WITHIN THIS REALITY
I SWALLOW MY OWN SANITY
IN MY OWN SANCTUARY





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ABOUT REKAH

There's no place for feelings in a world where everything rotates around the idea of productivity. Anything that has to do with emotions comes nowhere near top priority when capital accumulation seeps through every nook and cranny of the globe. In times like this, is there anything more revolutionary than singing our hearts out, fueled by said feelings and emotions?

Rekah is a collective of sound, writing and playing emotion-laden music. Before you ask any more questions, we're just as confused as you are when it comes to christening our music with a certain label. Some claimed it's blackgaze, others have called it post-hardcore, and we heard a couple of skramz along the way as well. But let's save the debate for another day—let's just focus on what we've been doing, shall we? That is, writing music—stories about humans in all their tangled webs of complexity—and celebrating it on stage.

TWITTER: @REKAHRUAH

INSTAGRAM: @REKAHRUAH

BANDCAMP: REKAH.BANDCAMP.COM



ABOUT HANTU

Hantu is a newborn record label slash publishing house based in Jakarta.

We seek to bring stories within the music upfront and give it a life of its own.

With the rise of streaming services, music has become nothing more than background

sounds with a short lifespan—something we plan to flip over. That being said,

we want to put music in the context where it belong and came from,

immortalizing the present and preserving chaos in all forms.

TWITTER: @HANTURECS

HANTURECS.BANDCAMP.COM

INSTAGRAM: @HANTURECS

FACEBOOK.COM/HANTURECS



THE SILENT CRIME!

HANTU